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## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT HOURS

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
8:00am - 5:00pm

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY**  
1:00pm - 5:00pm

For closing dates,  
please consult the  
department's Web site  
([http://www.ecu.edu/  
cs-lib/spclcoll/](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/spclcoll/)) or call  
252.328.6671.

## CENTENNIAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Special Collections Department is working with East Carolina University's Centennial Task Force to undertake an oral history of first-generation graduates of the university. Recently the North Carolina Humanities Council awarded Joyner Library a grant to plan the project. Using these funds, the library hired Dr. Lu Ann Jones, a nationally known oral historian, to advise a committee that is overseeing the project. Based on her ideas the committee, which is composed of faculty and staff members from the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the Department of History and the library, chose to focus on the experiences of alumni who were the first in their families to earn a college degree. The project seeks to learn information about the family backgrounds of these students, why they chose to seek a college education, their experiences at East Carolina and the impact their education has had on their lives.

Response to publicity concerning the project has been impressive. Alumni who were graduated during the period since the 1930s have submitted statements about their experiences. Twenty of these alumni were interviewed during the spring. The interviews will be transcribed and made available for research in the Special Collections Department.

The committee plans to seek another grant from the Humanities Council to sponsor a public program in the spring of 2009, in conjunction with the university's Founders Day activities. The program will showcase the results of the oral history project and give alumni the opportunity to interact with speakers whose research has centered on first-generation college students in the United States.

— Maury York

## CURRENT RESEARCH

Dr. Angela Thompson has been investigating the nineteenth-century U. S. naval surgeon, William S. W. Ruschenberger (1807-1895), using his letters and journals in the East Carolina Manuscript Collection (# 629) and several of his publications, including *Three Years in the Pacific* (1835) and *A Voyage Round the World* (1838), located in the Rare Book Collection.

Although originally interested in investigating Ruschenberger's views of Latin America, especially his observations and uses of medical practice and remedies, Dr. Thompson has determined that Ruschenberger merits broader attention because of his contributions to many facets of nineteenth-century intellectual life in the United States. He not only traveled widely as he carried out his naval duties as a medical officer—keeping detailed journals of each adventure—but he also participated in the ongoing process of professionalizing medical education and practice in the Navy. During his long and fruitful life, he contributed to some of the oldest and most venerable intellectual institutions that promoted the production and dissemination of knowledge in the United States. These included the American Philosophical Society, the Academy of Natural

Sciences and the College Board of Physicians, all located in Philadelphia, his home town. He served as president or vice-president of all three institutions. In the near future, Dr. Thompson hopes to journey to institutions in Philadelphia to use archival collections documenting Ruschenberger.

On February 25, 2008, Dr. Thompson presented a lecture about Dr. Ruschenberger entitled "William Ruschenberger: 19th-Century Naval Surgeon and Cultural Adventurer" at a meeting of the Medical History Interest Group held at the Laupus Library at the Brody School of Medicine.

— Dale Sauter



Drawing from the William S. Ruschenberger Papers

## FEATURED IMAGE



Panoramic photograph of 1914 Summer class at East Carolina Teachers Training School.

It is impossible to predict what may appear next in Special Collections. A phone call was made one afternoon to the Search Room desk. On the line was Annette Wysocki, PhD, who lives in Jackson, Miss. Her great-aunt was an alumna of East Carolina, and she had a picture to donate to the University Archives that included her relative and Robert Wright in a group photo.

Assistant Director for Special Collections Maury York was pleased to accept the donation when Dr. Wysocki came to Greenville, and the framed photo came to the University Archives for accessioning. It was a delightful shock to realize what had been tentatively identified as an image from the 1920's is, in fact, our only vintage copy of a photo published in the Volume I, Number 2 issue of the [ECTTS] *Training School Quarterly*!

Photographic prints have much more detail than most mass printing methods, and especially printing from the early 20th Century. This photo will allow us to make higher quality images for reproduction and provide more detail for researchers to study. Given that this is the Centennial of ECU, we should not think that we have finished collecting or researching—something “new” can pop up any time!

If you have items that you think are meaningful to ECU's history, or want to learn more about how you can support the activities of the University Archives, please visit <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/archives/donations.cfm>.

--L. K. Gypsie Legge

## DIGITAL COLLECTIONS ALIGNED WITH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Recently Joyner Library's Digital Collections unit joined the Special Collections division. This change took place as part of year-long re-visioning process initiated in January 2007 by Dean Academic Library and Learning Resources Larry Boyer. Digital Collections is responsible for the library's scanning activities and the technical development of digital projects and exhibits. Noteworthy among these is the Eastern North Carolina Digital Library, which includes hundreds of digitized books, pamphlets, maps and other print sources as well museum artifacts and educational resources. In addition, Digital Collections has played a key role in making the Special Collections Department's encoded finding aids available to the public through the department's Web site. In the future, staff members the unit will assist also with the development of East Carolina University's digital repository. The new head of the Digital Collections unit, Gretchen Gueguen, began her duties in January. She came to East Carolina from the University of Maryland, where she served for more than three years as Digital Collections Librarian.

— Maury York



Photo credit - Joe Barricella

From left to right: Joe Barricella, Michael Reece, Mark Custer and Gretchen Gueguen; also pictured is the unit's mascot, "Fluffy"



## NEW AND IMPROVED WEB PAGES AND FINDING AIDS

The Special Collections Department's Web pages and online finding aids have been given a fresh look, thanks to the efforts of staff members in Special Collections and Digital Collections. The Special Collections home page (<http://www.ecu.edu/lib/spclcoll/>) was recently updated by webmaster Nanette Hardison. Specifically, links were re-organized into a more user-friendly format and space was maximized to eliminate the need for excessive scrolling. New images that document departmental exhibits and the work of staff have been added. The Information for Visitors page was also updated. Additions include a link to the Greenville-Pitt County Convention and Visitors Bureau Web site, which offers much information on the Greenville area, including lodging and restaurant choices.

Ms. Hardison also created three new Web pages that highlight the department's book collections—the Hoover Collection on International Communism, the James H. and Virginia Schlobin Literature of the Fantastic Collection and the Rare Book Collection. Each page features a description of the collection and includes links to noteworthy and newly acquired titles. These pages also utilize rotating images of the selected titles.

Credit for updates to the finding aids goes to Michael Reece and Mark Custer (Digital Collections) and to Martha Elmore (Special Collections). These changes include the addition of preliminary inventories, digital images and enhanced search-

ing capabilities through search engines such as Google. Other improvements were made to the East Carolina Manuscript Collection Guides page and its accompanying FAQ page. These include a more user-friendly format and a list of search operators that facilitate searching the finding aids database. Through these improvements, users will be able to obtain more detailed information about the contents of our manuscript collection holdings.

— Nanette Hardison



This image of the pirate Blackbeard is the first likeness of him to appear in print. The image is from the Rare Book Collection's copy of the two-volume *General History of the Pyrates* (1724), by "Captain Charles Johnson." Some scholars believe that the book was written by Daniel Defoe.

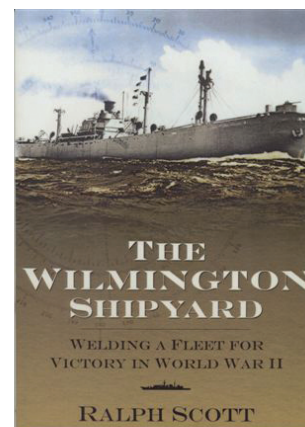
## NEW BOOKS BASED ON HOLDINGS IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Three new books published by faculty members at East Carolina University reflect the authors' extensive use of holdings of the Special Collections Department. *No Time for Ivy: East Carolina University, 1907-2007*, by Henry C. Ferrell Jr., is a pictorial history published in 2006 as part of the university's centennial celebration. Professor Ferrell drew heavily on photographs and documents preserved in the University Archives for this attractive volume. The same year, Ferrell also edited *Promises Kept: East Carolina University, 1980-2007*, a history of the university. Professor Ralph Scott, Curator of Printed Books and Maps in the Special Collections Department, recently published *The Wilmington Shipyard: Welding a Fleet for Victory in World War II* (History Press, 2007). The book is based largely on Scott's 1979 master's thesis (ECU Department of History). The thesis and book reflect the author's extensive research in the North Carolina Shipbuilding Collection, one of the first collections acquired for the East Carolina Manuscript Collection. The popularity of this book has taken Professor Scott to book signings in Raleigh, Spencer and Wilmington. Joyner Library hosted a book talk and signing in November. Scott also contributed a chapter to *Promises Kept*.

— Maury York



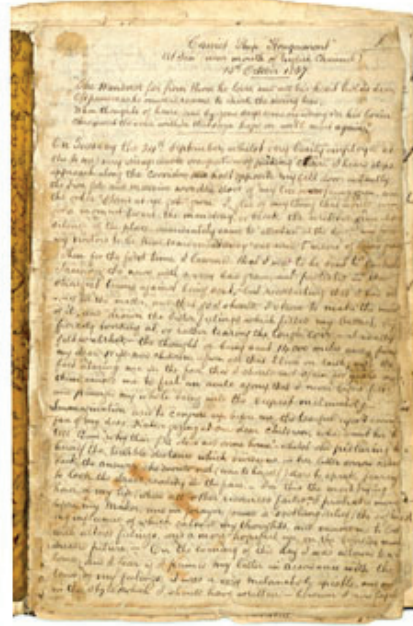
From the book, *No Time for Ivy*, a class at East Carolina Teachers Training School, paused in its studies with open books, welcomed other students and faculty for a photograph with President Robert Herring Wright.



*The Wilmington Shipyard* has attracted widespread attention.

## ON THE ROAD WITH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Three letters from the East Carolina Manuscript Collection's Denis B. Cashman Papers (#458) are currently on display in a traveling exhibition in Australia sponsored by the Fremantle Prison, a museum in Western Australia. Cashman, a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (Fenians), which was established in the late 1850s to overthrow the British government in Ireland, was incarcerated at the prison beginning in October 1867. Two of the letters (in an envelope dated 31 January 1867) are from Cashman's wife Kate. The third letter on convict stationery, from Cashman to his wife, is dated 28 February 1868. Also part of the exhibit are facsimiles of Cashman's prison diary and a photograph of Cashman from the Cashman Papers. The touring exhibit, entitled "ESCAPE! Fremantle to Freedom," tells the thrilling story of the escape of a group of Fenian convicts from the Fremantle Prison to America on the United States whaler *Catalpa*. It was hoped by the British government that the revolutionaries' imprisonment in Australia would bring an end to the uprising in Ireland. Instead, supporters raised funds to bring the men back



A page from Denis B. Cashman's diary

to Ireland, and early on the morning of 17 April 1876 six men left a prison work party in horse-drawn buggies and boarded a waiting whaler. Escaping capture by Australian authorities, the men arrived in New York on the *Catalpa* in August 1876. It is unclear how or when Cashman left the prison, but he later worked as a journalist in Boston.

The escape is an important event in nineteenth-century Australian and Irish history. The exhibit has proven so successful that it has been extended beyond its initially intended tour of Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany, Sydney and Port Arthur, Australia, during January 2007-February 2008. A catalog of the exhibit is available for viewing in Special Collections. The East Carolina Manuscript Collection letters, which have never been on display before, are a highlight of the exhibit. The collection was donated in 1983 by Dr. Alfred Sheehy. More information about the prison escape and the exhibit can be found on the Web at: [www.fremantleprison.com/gallery/gallery.cfm](http://www.fremantleprison.com/gallery/gallery.cfm)

— Ralph Scott

## FAREWELL TO SUELLYN LATHROP



Suellen Lathrop

In September 2007, University Archivist Suellen Lathrop ended her ten-year tenure at East Carolina University to take a job as University Archivist with Western Kentucky

University in Bowling Green. While here, Suellen greatly expanded the accessibility of the university's historical documents and publications to researchers through online finding aids. Her legacy includes more than 15,000 descriptions of photographs, negatives, post cards and drawings, with many being represented by thumbnail images as well. Standing out among other electronic finding aids that Suellen developed is the

ECU Memories project, which employs connecting links among graduating class lists, building histories, photographs, published articles and biographical sketches of faculty, staff and alumni.

During the past three years, Suellen also worked closely with ECU Professor Henry C. Ferrell Jr., assisting him with research in the University Archives and choosing photographs to be used in the two ECU centennial publications he completed: *Promises Kept: East Carolina University, 1980-2007* and *No Time for Ivy: East Carolina University, 1907-2007*.

Suellen was heavily involved in statewide archival organizations, including the Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA), where she was elected to several positions (she was president-elect when she left ECU). She was honored in 2005 by SNCA as the second recipient of the prestigious

Thornton W. Mitchell Service Award for outstanding service to the archival profession in North Carolina. Suellen was also a member of the UNC Records Managers committee that developed the University General Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. This schedule is the standard document used by universities in the UNC system for describing their official records, determining how long they need to be maintained for legal purposes and identifying records that need to be kept permanently. In 2004 N.C. Governor Michael Easley appointed her to a three-year term on the North Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB).

Suellen Lathrop will be greatly missed not only by the ECU community, but also by her colleagues in the North Carolina archival profession.

— Martha Elmore

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS IN EAST CAROLINA MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

Since April 2007, the East Carolina Manuscript Collection has accessioned 74 new collections or additions to existing collections. By volume this amounts to about 39.7 cubic feet of manuscript materials or 37,069 individual document sheets. Twelve of these collections are described below. For access to these and other interesting recent acquisitions, please contact the Special Collections Department at (252) 328-6671, or visit the departmental Web site at: <http://www.ecu.edu/lib/spdcoll/>.

The *Julia Catherine "Miss Kate" McDaniel Collection (1882-1977, n.d.)* contains a treasure-trove of manuscripts and other materials relating to the life of beloved elementary school teacher "Miss Kate" McDaniel, 1891-1975, and her career teaching Latin, English and history, first in Burlington and Bethel, then in Lenoir County, N.C., 1924-1960. Gift of Lt. Col. John Linton, Winterville, N.C.

The *Thomas M. Moore Papers (1966-1990)* document his career as judge of the U. S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, but relate principally to bankruptcy law and legislation, especially its impact on farmers. The papers include materials Judge Moore used as co-author, with Judge Thomas Small, of the Chapter 12 Family Farmer Bankruptcy legislation adopted by Congress in 1987. Note: Access to some of these materials is restricted to protect privacy rights of individuals. Gift of Mrs. Frances R. Moore, Wilson, N.C.

The *Jack Holland Spain Papers (ca. 1923-1978)* reflect the life and career of a prominent Greenville, N. C., attorney and Democratic Party activist, who served as administrative assistant to U. S. Senator Samuel J. Ervin, Jr., 1955-1975, notably during the Watergate Scandal. The papers include correspondence, photographs and printed materials. Gift of Mr. Jack H. Spain, Jr., Richmond, Va.

The *Mrs. John Grier Collection (1876-1949, n.d.)* consists primarily of letters the donor received from various men serving in the United States armed forces during World War II. Also included is the correspondence of Lt. John D. Grier, her future husband, with his family, especially with his brother, PFC James C. Grier, Jr., who was a prisoner of war. By agreement with the donor the finding aids to the collection are available only to in-house users. Gift of Mrs. John Grier, Greenville, N.C.

The *Elbridge G. & Julia Catherine Harvey McDaniel Collection (1830-1926)* traces the lives of Julia Catherine "Miss Kate" McDaniel's parents and contains materials relating to their real estate holdings, business and social life, church activities, and children's education. Gift of Lt. Col. John Linton, Winterville, N.C.

The *Albert and Hilda Biller Collection (1937-1985, n.d.)* is a unique assemblage of "Playbill" magazines, programs, librettos, souvenir pamphlets, etc., representing their lifetime attending New York City theatrical, dance and musical productions. It was acquired at the request of the School of Theatre and Dance. Gift of Mrs. Ilene Karlsson, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C.

The *Old - Bagley Collection (1800-1834, 1860-1880)* holds business records of the Jones, Harvey & Aitchison Company, a "swamp" lumber business, and its successor, the McPherson & Old Company, belonging to William McPherson & Hollowell Old, of South Mills, N.C., 1814-1834. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert T. Mullen, Elizabeth City, N.C.

The *Wilbur Kenneth Bragg Collection (1942-1957)* pertains to Bragg's World War II service as a photographer in the 942nd Engineer Aviation Topographic Battalion, 8th U. S. Air Force, in England, Scotland and Wales,

France, Germany and Switzerland, and holds manuscripts, photographic prints, scrapbook material and printed materials. Gift of Mrs. Jane Bragg, Rocky Mount, N.C.

The *John Miller Faison Collection (ca. 1885-1918, n.d.)* preserves photographs, manuscripts, a scrapbook and printed materials documenting the life of a Duplin County, N.C., physician and Democratic Party leader, who served as member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the Third District, 1911-1915. Purchase.

The *John Calvin Blue, MD Collection (1875-1886)* includes account books that document his practice in Cameron and Carthage, Moore County, N.C., and his partnership with Calvin Graves, a pharmacist. Gift of Mr. Alexander M. Williams, Oak Island, N.C.

The *Bark Catalpa Collection (29 Dec. 1863-6 July 1866)* consists of an account book recording Captain Paul Stevens' financial ties with the owners of the ship, including accounts for his salary, crews' wages and expenses during the ship's voyage to Shanghai, China, and Nagasaki, Japan, probably from New York, N.Y. The *Catalpa* later earned fame for rescuing a number of Irish Fenians from their imprisonment in Australia and carrying them to freedom in the United States. Purchase.

The *Mann-Cooper Family Collection (1745, 1752, 1910)* documents the family's historical land holdings on the north side of Swift Creek in Edgecombe County, N.C., and includes a grant of land (1745) to Thomas Mann from King George II and an indenture to John Cooper from John Earl Granville (1752), with a wax seal and a 1910 State Fair entry tag. Gift of Ms. Susan Juska, Roxboro, N.C.

— Jon Dembo



## RHEM/SCHWARZMANN ENDOWMENT FOR RECOGNITION OF STUDENT RESEARCH

Recently Mrs. Ann Schwarzmenn (BS 1957, MA Ed 1958) established the Rhem/Schwarzmenn Endowment for Recognition of Student Research. A retired school teacher, Mrs. Schwarzmenn made a planned gift to Joyner Library in memory/honor of William and Emily Rhem and Theodore and Ann Schwarzmenn. The interest from this endowment will fund cash awards for the three best research papers written by East Carolina University sophomores, juniors and seniors based chiefly on sources in Joyner Library's Special Collections Department. First-, second-, and third-place awards will be given in late spring, for papers prepared during the fall or spring semester of each academic year. The papers will utilize to a large extent primary research materials. The library will actively promote the award among students and professors at East Carolina University. Prize winners shall be selected by a panel of three

professors from appropriate departments (e.g., English and History). The awards will be presented at a special ceremony in the library. Copies of the papers will be preserved in the Special Collections Department.

Mrs. Schwarzmenn made this gift to encourage student use of the rich resources in the Special Collections Department. "We are excited about this generous and thoughtful gift," said Assistant Director for Special Collections Maury York. "This award will encourage use of primary research materials among undergraduate students. The students will experience the joy of original research and learn valuable skills. We are grateful to Mrs. Schwarzmenn for her generosity and interest in helping students to broaden their horizons."

— Maury York

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Photo credit - Lynette Lundin



Gypsy Legge

L.K. Gypsy Legge, Assistant University Archivist in the University Archives, received her MLIS degree in 2005 from the University of South Carolina. She has enjoyed post-secondary studies in several disciplines, including film, anthropology and linguistics, before focusing her attention on archives and cataloging. Gypsy's current professional projects include increasing collaboration with the Digital Collections unit at Joyner, providing better access to visual materials (such as ECU yearbooks) and streamlining the process for updating the University Archives Web pages.

Gypsy, who came to Greenville from Columbia, S.C., is learning more about Eastern North Carolina every day, and is quickly growing to appreciate vinegar-based barbecue sauce. Some of her personal interests include textile crafts, indigenous dance and live music.

— Dale Sauter

## NEW UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST APPOINTED



Kacy L. Guill

Ms. Kacy L. Guill, head of Archival Services at the University of Northern Colorado, has been appointed University Archivist and Records Manager at East Carolina University, effective August 1. Ms. Guill earned a master's degree in history at the University of California, Riverside, and received her MLIS degree from the University of Oklahoma. Her rich experience includes work as the James A. Michener Endowed Archivist at the University of Northern Colorado; Park Ranger/Interpreter at the Manzanar National Historic Site, Independence, California; and Librarian/Archivist, Shaw Historical Library, Oregon Institute of Technology. A certified archivist, Kacy is active in the archival profession. She has served as secretary of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists.

During her recent interview on campus, library faculty and staff especially appreciated Kacy's strong commitment to promoting use of the University Archives among students. At the University of Northern Colorado she oversaw the digitization of thousands of images, encoded archival finding aids to make them more accessible to users and planned tours and major events to publicize the collections in her care. Impressive also is Kacy's experience with records management. Here she will have overall responsibility for directing the university's robust records management program during a time of transition from paper to electronic documents.

Kacy looks forward to moving to North Carolina and beginning her duties at East Carolina in August.

— Maury York

## PITT COUNTY FAMILY RESEARCHERS ENJOY VISIT TO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

More than thirty members of the Pitt County Family Researchers visited the Verona Joyner Langford North Carolina Collection and the Special Collections Department on the evening of October 16, 2007, to learn about genealogical resources in both units. In Special Collections, Manuscript Archivist Martha Elmore surprised guests with information about little-known family history sources, including the papers of attorneys and records of pension applications made by former slaves who served in the Union army during the Civil War. Elmore showed examples of these records as well as files compiled by several well-known genealogists who conducted extensive research on families with roots in eastern North Carolina. Dean of Academic Library and Learning Resources Larry Boyer and Cynthia Adams, Major Gifts Officer, joined the group for a reception at the conclusion of the program. A number of participants expressed keen interest in making research visits, and several persons spoke of significant manuscript collections that might be available for acquisition by the department.

— Maury York

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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